

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi et al. (JP 10-340,669) in view of Ilcisin et al. (US Patent No. 6,027,661). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Asahi et al. and Ilcisin et al., standing alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, *inter alia*, the following features recited by claim 1 of the present application:

“forming and patterning a plurality of sandblasting stoppers above the dielectric layer, the sandblasting stoppers substantially corresponding to the address electrodes, and the width of each sandblasting stopper being not smaller than the width of each address electrode”;

“forming a rib material layer over the dielectric layer and the sandblasting stoppers;”

“forming and patterning a plurality of sand-resists on the rib material layer”;

“sandblasting the rib material layer to form a plurality of ribs and to expose the sandblasting stoppers”

“removing the sand-resists and the sandblasting stoppers” and

“performing a sinter process to the dielectric layer and the ribs”.

Asahi et al. discloses a method of forming a patterned thick laminated film on a substrate. A plurality of component layers of thick film forming materials are formed **simultaneously** on a glass substrate by

simultaneously applying a plurality of thick film forming pastes to the glass substrates. In the claimed invention, however, the different component layers are not formed at the same time, but are formed **sequentially** (for example, in claim 1, the dielectric layer is formed after the address electrodes; the sandblasting stoppers are formed after the dielectric layer, the rib material layer is formed after the sandblasting stoppers, etc.). By this reason alone, the claimed invention differs significantly from Asahi et al.

At the beginning of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Asahi et al. does not teach employing a sandblast stopper material over the address electrodes prior to placing the barrier rib material. However, he asserts that Ilcisin teaches such feature and that it would have been obvious to incorporate such feature into Asahi et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ilcisin discloses fabricating a channel substrate for a PALC display panel. Ilcisin teaches forming a layer of insulating material over the layer of conductive material and removing the layer of insulating material. The Examiner does not explain what part of the Ilcisin structure is considered to be the sandblasting stoppers. The most relevant part of Ilcison is col. 2, lines 40-50, which teaches a layer of tough inorganic material capable of serving as a blast stop material such as a metal. However, such layer is not "substantially corresponding to the address electrodes, wherein the width of each sandblasting stopper being not smaller than the width of each address electrode", as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, neither Asahi et al. nor Ilcisin teaches performing a **sinter**

process to the dielectric layer and the ribs. In the Office Action, the Examiner does not even mention this feature of the claimed invention. This feature is not found in the cited references. In fact, the Applicant believes that it is impossible for the cited references to have such feature. If the layer of tough inorganic material (blast stop) of Ilcisin is formed on the dielectric layer over the address electrodes in Asahi et al. (as the Examiner suggests), additional sinter process would be required before forming of ribs, or the dielectric not sintered may be damaged when forming the tough inorganic material as a sandblasting stopper because it is not rigid enough.

Furthermore, it is difficult to understand that how the layer of tough inorganic material (blast stop) of Ilcisin can be incorporated into the structure of Asahi et al. (as the Examiner suggests). Asahi et al. clearly teaches that the plurality of component layers are formed simultaneously and they are also burned simultaneously to form a patterned thick laminated film on the glass substrate. Thus, it is impossible in the structure of Asahi et al. to form sandblasting stoppers, then remove it and then perform a sinter process as recited by claim 1 of the present application, at least because the forming and removing of the sandblasting stoppers cannot be performed at the same time.

Under MPEP 2143, to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when

combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Due to the reasons stated above, the Applicant believes that these criteria is not met and claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2-10 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

The Applicant believes that all pending claims are patentable and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.


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(Date of Deposit)

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Respectfully submitted,



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